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X-MEN
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AUTHORITY

EXCALIBUR



DIRECT EDITION

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TWO WEEKS AGO:

BLOOD AND
SOIL.

THE MIDNIGHT RUNNER'S
REAR CYSEMENTS CRACK
APART, THE FIRE FROM
MISSILE-DELIVERED
EXPLOSIVES EATING
THROUGH BULKHEADS.

EXCALIBUR THE EUROPEAN
X-MEN DROP
WITH THEIR PLANE TOWARDS THE
HARD GROUND OF GENOSHA.

BLOOD AND
SOIL. THAT'S
WHAT THEY'RE
DYING FOR.

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

WARREN ELLIS
Story and
Dialogue

HEN LASHLEY
Pencils/
Storyteller

TOM WEGAZYN
Inker

JOE ROSAS
Colorist

RICHARD STARRINGS
(AND) COMICRAFT
Lettering

SUZANNE GAFFNEY
Editor

BOB HARRAS
Editor in Chief

BACK TO REALITY

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THE
CONTROLS ARE
DEAD -- THERE'S
NO POWER FEED
TO THE DRIVE-
SYSTEMS --

WE'RE
GOING DOWN
AND THERE'S
NOT A BLASTED
THING I CAN
DO ABOUT
IT!



ARE THE
GENERATORS
ACTUALLY DAMAGED?
COULD WE PULL UP IF
THE ENGINE FEED WAS
RESTORED TO THE
ENGINES?



ACH...

MAYBE -- THE
POWERSOURCE
IS UNDER US, AND
WE WERE HIT AMID-
SHIPS --

SHOW ME THE
POWER FEED, BRIAN.



THE POWER
FEEDS ARE
UNDER
HERE --

EXPOSE
THEM!
I WANT
TO SEE
THEM --



CAN'T MAKE
THINGS ANY
WORSE --



BLAST!

LOOKS LIKE THE
CABLES WERE BURNED
UP IN THE INITIAL
RUSH OF FIRE,
MEGGAN --



HOLD ON, BRIAN -- LET ME GET TO THESE FLAMES, SHOVE OUT OF THE WAY --

-- YES, SEVERED CABLE.



IF YOU'VE GOT AN IDEA, MEGGAN --

-- NOW WOULD BE A VERY GOOD TIME TO SHARE IT.



ELECTRICITY, LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO GO, LOST ITS WAY HOME.



-- AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GIVE IT A LITTLE PUSH.



THE CONSOLE'S LIT UP!
WE HAVE POWER!



A LITTLE LATE, BUT...



PULL UP.

PULL UP, YOU VERDAMMT THING...



PULL UP!



MEGGAN SIMPLY
CONVINCED THE
ELECTRICITY TO
JUMP ACROSS
THE GAP IN THE
FEED CABLES WITH
THAT ELEMENTAL
MUTANT ABILITY
OF HERS.

THE DRIVESYSTEMS
RELIED IN HUGE MESSY
FLARES OF FIRE, THE
RUNNER GROANED
WITH THE STRESS ON
ITS STEEL --

-- AND ITS BELLY
PRACTICALLY SCRAPED
THE FLOOR OFF GENOSHA.

AND ALL
THAT WAS A
COUPLE OF
WEEKS AGO.

THE GENOSHAN COALITION
GOVERNMENT THAT WAS HELLED
TO POWER BY THE AMERICAN
X-MEN REQUESTED OUR AID.

AS WE WERE HERE AT THE
REQUEST OF BRITISH
INTELLIGENCE TO LOCATE THE
ORIGIN OF MUTANT-SPECIFIC
ARMAMUNITION USED IN
THE NEW CIVIL WAR HERE --

-- IT MADE SENSE TO HELP
THEM WITH THE ROOT CAUSE,
WHICH IS THE COLLAPSED
ECONOMY. GENOSHA USED
TO USE MUTANTS AS
SLAVE LABOR, AND THE NEW
GOVERNMENT'S TRYING TO
FIND A WAY BACK TO HOW
THINGS WERE BEFORE THAT.

MY NAME IS
KITTY PRYDE. I'M AN X-MAN,
AN EXCALIBUR
MEMBER, AND I'M HERE TO TELL
YOU THAT IT'S ALL GONE WRONG.



YOU WANT A COFFEE, PRYDE?

I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE FOR A CIGARETTE, WISDOM.

CAN'T SMOKE ANYWHERE IN THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING, 'S'LIKE BEING IN BLOODY NEW YORK.

AND HE'S HALF THE REASON, I'M SURE. PETE WISDOM. OBSERVE FOR BLACK AIR, THE BRITISH "SECRET TEAM" THAT GOT US INTO THIS.



AND I DON'T LIKE HIM!

D'YOU WANT THIS COFFEE OR WHAT? I GINT SPAT IN IT OR ANYTHING.



YOU'RE DISGUSTING.

WELL, AT LEAST I GOT YOUR ATTENTION. ALL THIS WAITING AROUND IS KILLING ME.



YOU TOOP WITH THIS, AND THE MUIR ISLAND THING I FEEL SO... USELESS.



THERE ARE WORSE THINGS.

THE JEEP IS HERE! I WISH TO DRIVE!







BRIAN BRADDOCK WHO TOOK THE NAME BRITANNIC DURING A RECENT PLUMMET THROUGH UNIVERSAL HISTORY, DOESN'T KNOW WHETHER TO LAUGH OR CRY.

THE FLASH-FORWARDS, SYMPTOMS OF HIS OVERFILLED MEMORY ARE NARROWING THEIR FOCUS, WHICH IS GOOD.

BUT THEY NARROWED THEIR FOCUS TO THIS -- HORROR.

KURT WAGNER CODENAMED NIGHTCRAWLER

IN HIS ROLE AS TEAM LEADER HAS A LITTLE MORE DIRECTION TO HIS THOUGHTS.

HE IS GERMAN, HE WAS RAISED BY GYPSIES, AND HE IS A MUTANT. HE KNOWS ABOUT RACE HATRED.

AND IT TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF RESTRAINT AND MATURITY TO NOT TELEPORT THE GUERRILLAS' HEADS OFF.

AND THEN THE RULES CHANGE.

VRS--P

BIOLOGICALLY GENERATED X-RAY LASER



"THE MUTATE
WASN'T
STOPPING."

"I WAS GOING
TO DIE UNLESS I
DID SOMETHING.
NO OTHER WAY."

"I HAD TO
USE MY
MUTANT
ABILITY."

"GENERATED A
SPRAY OF MY
'HOT KNIVES' --
BLADE-SHAPED
PLATES OF PURE
HEAT HOT AS
THE HEART OF
THE SUN."

"I HAD TO,
IT WAS THAT
OR DIE --"

"... BUT BLACK AIR
PROMISED ME I'D
NEVER BE PUT IN A
COMBAT SITUATION
AGAIN, AFTER...
AFTER SOME THINGS
I'VE DONE..."

"YOU
TOLD
ME...
TO DO
YOU..."

"... I TOLD
YOU I DIDN'T
WANT TO HURT
ANYBODY, AND
NOW LOOK AT
YOU."



IT'S JUST
DUMB LUCK THAT
THE STUPID VIOLENCE
TOERAG SURVIVED.
SO MUCH FOR BEING
AN OBSERVER,
BUT

NOT THAT
I'M DOING MUCH
OBSERVING -- WE GO
LOOKING FOR THE ROOT
OF THE OLD MUTATE-BASED
ECONOMY. FIND THE
OLDEST MUTATE ON
GENOSHA --

-- TRY
TO FIND OUT
WHAT LIFE WAS
LIKE HERE BEFORE
THE SLAVE SYSTEM.
HOW IT CAME
TO PASS...

SEEK IS NOT A PRINCE
-Suzie-



-- AND
THE GUY
DISSOLVES
ON US.®



PERHAPS I MIGHT
GET ONE OF THESE
TO DRIVE AROUND
MUIR ISLAND IN.

I'M
MOVING
TO THE MAIN-
LAND.



ARE YOU
ALWAYS THIS
MISERABLE?

YOU SHOULD
SEE ME AT
CHRISTMAS

ALL WE
HAVE TO SHOW
FOR OUR TIME HERE
IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE
BULLET WE WERE SENT TO
INVESTIGATE PULLED
OUT OF A
CORPSE --



-- AND A
WALL OF
SILENCE WHEN
WE ASK WHERE
IT CAME
FROM.

AT LEAST
IT'S STOPPED
DRIBBLING.

THE MUIR ISLAND
MEDICAL RESEARCH
CENTER, OFF THE
COAST OF SCOTLAND.

MORA,
THERE'S FAXES
HERE FROM EVERY
MAJOR NEWS AGENCY
ON THE PLANET -- AND
THE WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION.

BIN
THE WHOLE
LOT OF 'EM,
RORY.

I'M NOT
TALKING THE
ANY OF 'EM UNTIL
I FIGURE OUT HOW
THE LEGACY VIRUS
DATA WAS LEAKED
OUT OF THIS
STATION.

NO -- TELL
THE W.H.O. THAT YES,
I AM INFECTED WITH THE
LEGACY VIRUS, BUT THE
SITUATION'S UNDER
CONTROL.

WISDOM'S A DEFINITE
SUSPECT.

I
JUST CAN'T
IMAGINE
WHO WOULD
STEAL THE
DATA.

BUT
LET'S NOT GET
DISTRACTED -- THE
REAL QUESTION
IS NOW.

MODERN CONNECTED --
INTERNET ACCESS
AVAILABLE



WE GOT
WORD TO BRITAIN
THAT THESE BULLETS
THE HUMAN TERRORISTS
ARE USING CAME
FROM THERE. THAT
WE NEEDED
HELP --

-- AND
I WAS KIND
OF HOPING
THEY'D SEND
YOU.

WELL... I
KNOW THE X-MEN
HAVE HELPED YOU IN THE
PAST, AND THEY SPEAK
VERY WELL OF YOU
IN PARTICULAR,
GOVERNOR...



NOT
WHAT I
MEANT.

WE KNOW
ABOUT THE
BULLETS. THEY'RE
DERIVED FROM THE
SEM-SENTIENT,
SUPERHARD PLASTIC
SKIN OF A LONDON
MURDERER NAMED
PIER.

TWENTY YEARS
AGO, HE WAS KEPT IN
CAPTIVITY BY THE BRITISH
MILITARY, AND HIS SKIN WAS
MACHINED OFF AND CONVERTED
INTO BULLETS, AFTER CONSULTATION
WITH A FAMOUS ENGLISH PHYSICIST --



-- NAMED SIR JAMES
BRADDOCK.
YOUR
FATHER.



SO,
CAN YOU
STOP -- P

NO,
NOT DAD. HE
WORKED WITH THE
ESTABLISHMENT,
BUT --

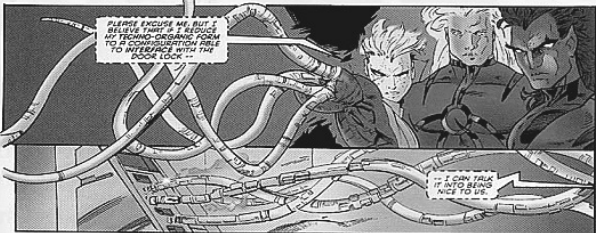
(NO)



NO.
NO.

THIS, TOO, WAS IN HIS
VISION, BRITAIN.
REALIZES, A BROKEN
LIVE IN BROKEN GLASS.











THAT IMPLIES THAT THE LATE DOCTOR MOREAU DIDN'T ORIGINATE THE MUTATE PROCESS. THAT IT WAS GIVEN TO HIM.

YEAH. THAT MEANS GENOSHA WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S DERB BALL BLOW. GUESS HE FELL INTO THE BACKGROUND. I DON'T FIND ANY TRACE HERE...

... BUT I DO HAVE A NOTATION HERE FOR BULLETS IMPORTED FROM BRITAIN FOR "RIOT CONTROL" --



-- Y'KNOW, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THIS.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
AH --



-- I THINK I HAVE A NAME FOR THE "SPONSOR" --



THINK THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH OF THAT.



COMPUTER'S RIGGED...

BLAM



THERE IT GOES -- THE TRUTH ABOUT GENOSHA, UP IN SMOKE.



...ALONG WITH THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BULLETS.



Hm, THEY LOOK A BIT MURDER, SCICLUNA.



STILL, THEY DID THE JOB WE WANTED.

THEY'VE STIRRED THINGS UP. SECRETS LIKE THE MUTATE PROCESS WILL RISE TO THE SURFACE, IN TIME --
-- AND BLACK AIR WILL SKIN THEM OFF.

TO BE CONTINUED

STREET STORIES

Welcome back, everybody! Hope you all returned from the Age of Apocalypse safe and sound.

So... What's next you ask? Well, ask and you shall receive. We've got triangles and trailers, last loves and legends, allies and old friends. What's that? Not specific enough? You don't really want us to give away all the surprises, do ya now? Let's just say that with the stories we've got planned, you better not get too comfortable—you'll be out the door running for the next issue of EXCALIBUR before you can say "En Sabah Nur!"

Speaking of the big blue guy, don't forget to write in and let us know what you thought of our world without Xavier!

And speaking of writing... sounds like you've been enjoying Warren's writing. We think he's pretty terrific, too—but why not let you hear it from the horse's mouth, okay?!

See ya in thirty!

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✪
If you don't
want your
full name and
address
printed,
be sure to
tell us!



SUZANNE
GAFFNEY
EDITOR

BOB
HARRAS
CHIEF

Warren Ellis.

Hmm...well I'm impressed. After being gutted (though not surprised) by the cancellation of HELLSTORM, I was willing to see how you'd handle the transition to the angst-ridden soap opera of Marvel's merry mutants. I should never have doubted. The "Soulsword Trilogy" was a brilliant piece of writing, melding seamlessly with the normal mutant style, and yet still bringing your own blend of mystical, Gothic, occult menace to the tale. And your take on Kitty was one of the best in recent years.

Looking forward to more tales from the dark side of mutantkind, and just waiting to see if the image of Carl McCoy will infiltrate this title as it did the last few issues of HELLSTORM.

Gary Morgan
127 Rochdale Road, Abbey Wood
London, England SE2 0XA

Dear Sword Strokes,

OH, JOY! When I read about the plot for #83, I was glad that you had not forgotten the Soulsword. But what's this? I look again and notice that the new writer is Warren Ellis from HELLSTORM! Hooey, hooey, joy, joy!!! Now the greatest (and most sinister) writer for Marvel writes the only two books I have read faithfully since they first started.

I waited to write this until I bought issue #83 to see if and how Warren's writing would differ between HELLSTORM and EXCALIBUR. I know there are differences but Warren does know how to write some truly dark stories.

Some may say that part one of the Soulsword Trilogy is "not like Excalibur and that was not Kitty." But it is! Warren is only working with material that was mostly being ignored.

For instance, in UNCANNY X-MEN #171, when Rogue joined, Kitty said she wanted to hit something. Peter replied "So, what's next?" In another X-MEN issue Peter and Maxie had to pull Kitty off a boy after she tackled him and went through a window (boy first, and

not phased). In NEW MUTANTS #16, the White Queen said that Kitty has a mean streak that rivals her own. It's been her morals that have kept Kitty from acting like one of the nastiest women to wear an X. The Soulsword seems to have just ditched those morals. I thank Warren for a great story, even if it's only part one of a trilogy.

I have read EXCALIBUR since the beginning and there has been no other issue or book that I have awaited as eagerly as #83. Now if I can just wait until #84. Well, there is one thing I am upset at Warren for, the tension between issues is too great! So until Warren leaves, leading the rest of this great creative team to Disney, make mine Marvel. Better yet, make mine EXCALIBUR!

T. Harrington
Lewisville, TX 75067

Warren with the Soulsword on the loose at Disney? Now that's scary...

Dear Sword Strokes,

Beautiful, that's what it was. I'm referring to EXCALIBUR #85. Now this is what I call Art. Ken Lashley's pencils and Tom Weger's inks were superb. Nice and clean—a bit Brian Bollandish. I sure hope Ken and Abn Davis can keep on doing the book. Would you please let me what your Ken and Tom have done before working on EXCALIBUR? Thank you for a great comic.

Robert Tomlinson
Baldersv.2
155 34 Nykvarn, Sweden

We'd be glad to. Both Ken and Tom are newcomers to the comics field. Ken has a background in storyboarding, while Tom was in advertising illustration before he joined the team supremely! Both hail from Canada!

Dear Ms. Gaffney,

I'm not sure who is directly responsible for the Sienkiewicz cover, but whenever it was a genius. I'm a big fan of his NEW MUTANTS days and if anything could have brought me back to an EXCALIBUR without Abn Davis, it would be a Sienkiewicz cover spotlighting a plot thread from my favorite old comics.

And, thankfully, you guys delivered! It all could have just been a ploy designed to ensnare nostalgic old NEW MUTANTS fans and then give them substandard story and art. Well, Warren and Terry ensured that that wasn't the case.

So, what's going on? Why is Kitty doing an Amy Fisher impression? Who is this Gravemoss character and what does he plan to do in Kurt's lower intestine? What role does Amanda play in this? You just know that I'll be back next issue! Looks like I'm hooked again.

David Scott

2658 W. Boise #3
Boise, ID 83706

We think Bill's work is pretty special, too. By the way, David, *gotcha!* Welcome back!

Dear Suzanne and crew,

As the surreal Bill Sienkiewicz cover would attest, you've taken a risk with the current story arc in EXCALIBUR. Yet, it's a risk that will most certainly pay off as this comic forges off in its own, yet X-related, direction. Issue #83 was a stunning opener to the Soulsword trilogy.

Warren Ellis has proven he could write a powerful horror story, but never a mainstream superhero comic. When Warren finally got his chance, he delivered "Bend Sinister" which retained all the elements of his previous work, yet with a well-known and well-loved cast of characters. This issue was fantastic, delving paper and all. It gave us another side of Kitty Pryde, although not a side we'd have expected. And I'm enjoying having Moira MacTaggart around on a regular basis. Also, the scene with Britanic and Megan was touching, although there hasn't been a lot of much-needed insight into their obviously offbeat relationship.

Everybody and everything has a darker side, as they say. It's about time that a mutant tale embraces it. For if a "normal" (notice the quotes) person has a side waiting to escape and wreak havoc, a mutant should certainly have a far more dangerous one.

Bill's cover was a hard act to follow, but Terry Dodson and W.C. Carani's interiors were splendid. Joe Rosas also did a wonderful job, apparently taking full advantage of the age of delusio coloring. His work was impressive, and here, I didn't have to pay an extra cent more than the regular cover price.

Keep up the good work and good risk-taking. This comic has always had a lot of potential and your team is clearly embracing it as they push EXCALIBUR into the future with this trilogy.

Joey Marchese
Clark, NY 07066

So, ya liked it, Joey? We figured we'd hear from you—especially if you didn't! Thanks for the "kudos."

NEXT ISSUE:

Don't miss the start of the DREAM NAILS Trilogy—where Kitty and Pete set off to find out what's happened to an old friend and get caught up in the race for control over genetic supremacy! Featuring Black Air—find out what they really want!

ELSEWHERE ON GENOSHA, IN AN ENCLOSURE THAT'S REMAINED HIDDEN FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS OR MORE.

THE SUGAR MAN GRINS AROUND A STICKY MASS OF HALF-CHEWED HAND-MADE BELGIAN CHOCOLATE.

THESE SKINNY LITTLE MUTANTS ARE SCURRING AROUND LOOKING FOR THE BAD HEART OF GENOSHA'S HISTORY...

...THEY NEEDN'T LOOK ANY FURTHER THAN HIM.

STILL, THEY'RE BECOMING ANNOYING. HE CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME HE HAD TO USE THE DISSOLUTION INFLANT AS HE DID JUST WEEK ON GENOSHA'S OLDEST MUTANT.

CAN'T HAVE THEM FINDING THE TRUTH BEHIND GENOSHA -- THE SUGAR MAN'S GREATEST EXPERIMENT IN UNDERHOCK INDUSTRY.

BUT, FOR NOW, HE'S PREPARED TO WATCH AND GIGGLE.

GOVERNOR BANSOME -- WHY ARE WE DRIVING TO THE LAB SEPARATELY FROM THE OTHERS?

WE'RE STOPPING HERE, BRITNIC.

WE NEED TO TALK.

ABOUT WHAT?

MY COALITION PARTNER, PHILIP MOSER. A HUMAN. HE'S A GOOD MAN -- DON'T LOVE HIM, BUT...
I'M A MUTANT. I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL DIFFERENTLY ABOUT SOME THINGS.